



EERIE
JUNE
#15

A WARREN MAGAZINE

EERIE

POC

warning!

**to every living creature of flesh and
blood—beware the evil man called...**



THE DOLL COLLECTOR

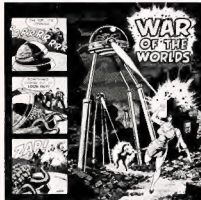
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ERIE

JUNE, 1968

NO. 15

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: JAMES WARREN

COVER: VIC PREZIO

LETTERING: BEN ODA

ARTISTS THIS ISSUE: PAT BOYETTE, ROCKE MASTROSERIO, GUTENBERG MONDIERO, GRAY MORROW, JOE ORLANDO, ANGELO TORRES, TONY WILLIAMSON



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DEAR COUSIN EERIE



I recently picked up a copy of EERIE 13. As soon as I got it home, I began reading it. As usual, I didn't bother reading the table of contents. The first story, "Wentworth's Day," was rather good, but lacked plot. As I began to read the second tale, "Ogre's Castle," I suddenly realized I had read it before—in an issue of CREEPY. Although this was slightly annoying, it didn't bother me because I realize that magazines sometimes find it necessary to reprint a story in order to fill space because they don't have time to put together a new article before the magazine goes to print. Therefore, I simply skipped over the story. Then I recognized another reprint in the third story, "Telltale Heart." This really annoyed me. Upon checking the other stories in the magazine, I discovered they were all reprints. This situation is deplorable. I have been an avid reader of both EERIE and its so-called competitor, CREEPY ever since they first appeared on the newsstands. For the most part, the artwork in both magazines has been above reproach. The plots of the majority of the stories have been very good. Yet this most recent issue of EERIE was an insult to the reader's intelligence. I am writing this letter in the hope that this will not happen again hereafter!

Gary E. Reilly
Olean, N. Y.

The story behind our last few reprint issues is a long, but interesting one: A rich Transylvanian uncle of mine—Creepy's brother Gory—died (again!) last year. He had made a huge fortune selling human skulls to the Captain Company, and Uncle Creepy and I had to go to Transylvania to settle the estate. We were gone longer than expected. So long, in

fact, many of my associates at Warren Publishing Company gave up hope we'd ever come back. They should have known better. We're back now and hard at work again. As soon as we get Uncle Gory's Transylvanian pieces of eight converted into dollars, we're going to spend all of it on improving our magazines! In the meantime, new material will begin appearing right away. And it will get better with every issue. While we were on our tour of Transylvania, we picked up some exciting new story ideas you won't want to miss. (Mine are better than Uncle Creepy's, of course!) Stay with us. We're back on the job. And better than ever!

In your eighth magazine it had said that your human skulls were sold out. Would you please let me know if you have some at the present time?

Buddy Fisher
Langley AFB, Virginia

That's what we need! More readers who want to get a head. As soon as we get enough heads together, the human skulls will be listed again in our mail order pages. Watch for them there.

"Masque of The Red Death" in issue 12 was good, except for the artwork. The book's stories were all great, but "Esape" was especially good. "Vampyrus" and "Portrait of Satan" were both good, but the artwork didn't do them justice. Why don't you get Reed Crandall to do the art for these two stories and do them over? "Past Master" was the best story I have ever read either in CREEPY or EERIE. Its artwork was absolutely the greatest! "Nor Custom, Stale" had a great plot, too, but I couldn't understand the title. Please explain! Issue #13 was positively the greatest book with the greatest artwork I have ever seen!!!! And I will even say that Joe Orlando's Voodoo was good. You should get permission from NBC to do a story on STAR TREK. Make it a special EERIE attraction—make it feature length, taking up almost the entire book. Let either Angelo Torres or the artist who did "Wentworth's Day" or Al Williamson or, of course the one, the only, the GREAT Reed Crandall!!!! (draw it) Whatever you do, give us more of Reed Crandall, Reed Crandall, Reed Crandall, Reed Crandall...

Donald Hawthorne
Clayville, R. I.

Funny, Reed never mentioned having relatives in Rhode Island! I'll send him your letter—along with the script for his next story. I don't know what

"Nor Custom, Stale" means either. But I'm just a simple fiendish ghoul. Anybody out there willing to offer any help? If you have an idea what the title meant, drop me a line.

The comment on the cover about reading why the number 13 scares us was completely wrong. How can something scare me if I've seen it before? Every single story in #13 was old to me. All this seems to have started since Archie Goodwin stopped being your editor. Was he the only source of story material that you had? Will everything go to pot now, that he's gone?

Mike Price
San Diego, Cal.

We've already explained what happened—and what's ahead. The cover line referred to a two-page story which had been scheduled to appear in that issue. It really does explain why the number thirteen is so creepy—or eerie. It will be used. You'll see.

EERIE 13 was a cool issue. What happened to the letter page? The cover was sharp. Vic Prezio did a good job. The top story was "Ogre's Castle." Angelo Torres' art was really neat. The plot was all right, but the best thing was the art. Next best was "Telltale Heart." The art by Reed Crandall was okay. The next one was "Spawn of the Cat People." How come Reed Crandall did two stories? But the art was good. Plot, too. "The Success Story" by Al Williamson was okay. The plot was all right. The worst story was "Voodoo." Orlando didn't do a very good job with it. Not like he did in "Witch Hunt in EERIE 11. The Plot in "Voodoo" seemed over-used. Stay in business, Eerie. I think Larry Adkins was wrong when he said Creepy was better than you. You have better stories. I even gave two Creeps away—I'd never part with one of my Eeries!

John Proce
Chicago, Ill.

Don't worry about me! I know I'm better than Creepy. And I'm getting better all the time!

EERIE 12 was the first one I ever saw, and I think it was great. I know you are at war with Uncle Creepy, but I started with it and it was CREEPY #8. Then I heard about EERIE and I rushed to the store but they were all sold out. Later, I got EERIE 12. I wish you would write a mummy story and don't forget "The Chinese Dragon." I'm sure your readers will love it.

Dennis Connolly
Lincoln, Neb.

Sold out, eh?—Take that, Uncle Creepy!

Some of my favorite features were left out of EERIE 13. Namely, Monster Gallery and the fan mail page. The cover of this issue was great as usual, but I was disappointed to find that the stories were reprints from earlier issues. But it's always nice to have another copy of your fiendish stories. I truly enjoy all the magazines you publish. I hope you'll be publishing them for a long time to come.

Charles McCorkle
Memphis, Tenn.

On my trek to Transylvania, I heard tales of some interesting new monsters for the Monster Gallery. Stick around... as soon as we can locate an artist who can take the terror, we'll show you what they look like!

If you get an OxaWalaSob, you could put Uncle Creepy out of business! An OxaWalaSob is a funny little animal that eats other animals alive. When it is hungry, it flips its head underneath its body and puts its tentacles out at its sides. Then it puts its ears up. When something steps between its ears, it flips its head up and stuns the animal by hitting it in the stomach. Then it grabs the animal and eats it alive. Ahhhhhhhhh. Nauseating, isn't it?

Arthur Loffand
Kendall Park, N.J.

Even an OxaWalaSob would have to be pretty hungry to eat a tough old bird like Uncle Creepy! If you run across one down there in Kendall Park, though, send it along. I'll try anything once.

The biggest mistake I ever made was in buying an issue of CREEPY. Uncle Creepy is a softie. Every time he looks at EERIE and sees all those headless corpses running around, he faints dead away. I ski a lot and when I'm not skiing, I read EERIE. It makes me ski better. But just one CREEPY ruined a whole day of skiing. That square is so soft that bats laugh at him. But when they see EERIE, they take one look and run! You're the best!

Fritz Titus
Pennington, New Jersey

Buying CREEPY was no mistake—as long as you don't do it again! One issue of CREEPY is all it takes to help you realize how great EERIE really is. Makes you ski better, too, eh? That's because it puts a nice frosty chill on your blood.

Want to write us?
Address your poison pen letters to:
EERIE LETTERS, Dept. 15,
22 E. 42nd St., N.Y.C. 10017



BACK IN THE DAYS WHEN BATS, BIRDS AND CREATURES HAD THE SKY TO THEMSELVES, PLACES LIKE THIS WERE SAFE FROM MEN LIKE FRANK LEEDS! BUT NOW THESE ARCHAEOLOGIST-TYPES CAN GO FLYING OFF TO ANY OLD PLACE! LIKE THIS ONE IN BRAZIL - A TWO HOUR FLIGHT FROM RIO - A TWO-CENTURY TRIP BACK TO.....

THE GRAVES OF OGONOCO!



BOYETTE AND ROCKE -

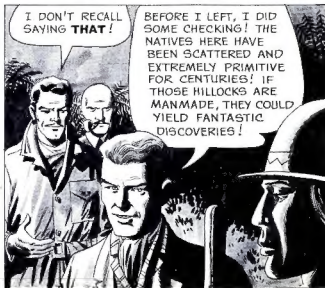


FANTASTIC! THEY'RE EVEN BIGGER THAN MITCHELL DESCRIBED THEM!



FRANK! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST MY TELEGRAM!

I'VE JUST SEEN THOSE MOUNDS FROM THE AIR, AND YOU'RE RIGHT-THIS COULD BE AN IMMENSELY IMPORTANT FIND!



I DON'T RECALL SAYING **THAT**!

BEFORE I LEFT, I DID SOME CHECKING! THE NATIVES HERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED AND EXTREMELY PRIMITIVE FOR CENTURIES! IF THOSE HILLOCKS ARE MANMADE, THEY COULD YIELD FANTASTIC DISCOVERIES!

STILL INVOLVED
WITH THE PAST,
EH?

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY
ACHIEVING YOUR SCIENTIFIC
GOALS, FROM THE LOOKS
OF THIS SETUP! WE'LL
HAVE TO CATCH UP ON
THOSE FRIENDLY ARGU-
MENTS WE HAD AS
'STUDENTS!

WE'RE PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE HERE,
FRANK! FOR THE FAMINE AN OVER-
POPULATED WORLD WILL BRING!

WE'RE TRYING TO TAKE THE VITAMIN
COMPOUNDS FROM THE SOIL TO CREATE
AN EDIBLE SUBSTANCE!

REMARKABLE! WHERE DO THE OVERPOPULATED
MASSES STAND AFTER THEY'VE EATEN UP
THE WHOLE EARTH?

AN EXTREMELY MOIST
ATMOSPHERE IS
ESSENTIAL! THE
FORMS OF ENERGY
RELEASED BY THIS
CYCLOTRON ARE NOT
FULLY UNDERSTOOD!
THEY COULD BE
DANGEROUS! THAT'S
WHY WE CAME OUT
HERE!

I SHOULD BE
THANKFUL FOR
YOUR CONTRAP-
TION-- IT LED
US TO THOSE
MOUNDS!

WE'VE EVEN SET
UP AN OFFICE
FOR YOU!

I SUPPOSE WE MUST THANK
THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST
IN K-RATIONS FOR THIS
LUXURY, TOO!

60/
UK LEADS
GAL UNIT

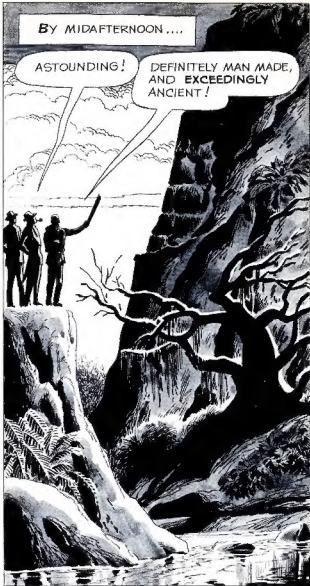
NEXT MORNING, PROFESSOR LEEDS
BEGINS HIS SEARCH OF THE MYSTER-
IOUS MOUNDS!



BY MIDAFTERNOON

ASTOUNDING!

DEFINITELY MAN MADE,
AND EXCEEDINGLY
ANCIENT!



LET'S HAVE A SHOVEL! PERHAPS THERE'S
AN ENTRANCE AT THIS NARROWER END!



WE'VE HIT STONE!



AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF EXHAUSTING SHOVELING....



LOOK AT **THIS**, WILL YOU ?



SEE THE RECEEDING FOREHEADS! ...THE FIND
THESE CAVES ARE FAR OLDER
THAN WE IMAGINED! IT'S... OF THE
CENTURY!



THIS WOLF-DOG MUST
HAVE BEEN SOMEONE'S
PET MORE THAN FIFTY
THOUSAND YEARS AGO!

WELL PRESERVED
...WE COULD
RECONSTRUCT IT
EASILY !

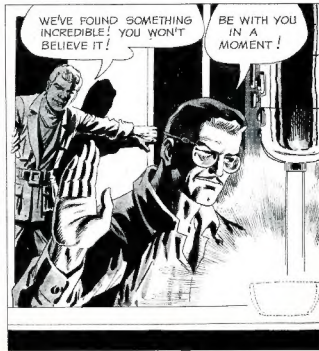


THE TROPICAL SUN IS SETTING FAST AS THEY
RETURN WITH THE FIRST OF MANY TREASURES...



WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING
INCREDIBLE! YOU WON'T
BELIEVE IT!

BE WITH YOU
IN A
MOMENT !



THINK OF IT, MITCH! THESE RELICS PREDATE ANYTHING KNOWN IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE! THEY SHOW AN ADVANCEMENT UNKNOWN AT THAT TIME ANYWHERE ON EARTH!

HUMMM?

AS A FRIEND, I'M GLAD YOUR EXPLORATION IS A SUCCESS! BUT—YOU'RE POKING AROUND IN THE PAST WHEN, IN THIS VERY BUILDING, YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO HELP MOLD THE FUTURE!

THE PAST IS IMPORTANT TOO!

...THE PAST IS DEAD!

THESE PEOPLE WERE WARLIKE! WEAPONS WERE PLACED WITH THE WARRIORS TO USE IN THE AFTERLIFE!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, PROFESSOR LEEDS IS KEPT BUSY...

MITCHELL TOO, PURSUED HIS INTERESTS!

I THINK WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKTHROUGH!

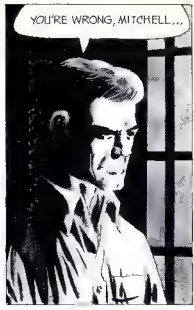




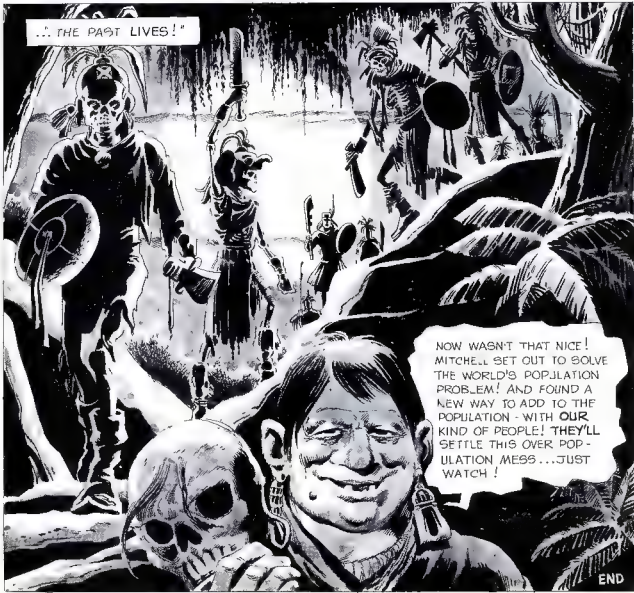
YOU FOOL! THIS WOULD
HAVE BEEN OUR FIRST
LINK WITH THE PAST!



THAT WAS NO LIVING THING!
THE CYCLOTRON MUST HAVE
ACTIVATED IT! THAT WAS
MERELY A REFLEX ACTION!
THE PAST IS DEAD!



YOU'RE WRONG, MITCHELL...



... THE PAST LIVES!"

NOW WASN'T THAT NICE!
MITCHELL SET OUT TO SOLVE
THE WORLD'S POPULATION
PROBLEM! AND FOUND A
NEW WAY TO ADD TO THE
POPULATION - WITH OUR
KIND OF PEOPLE! THEY'LL
SETTLE THIS OVER POP-
ULATION MESS...JUST
WATCH!

END

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Terror-ific Issue #3



Frenzied Issue #4



Fearful Issue #5



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PSST! LISTEN TO EERIE CREEPS! FOLLOW YOUR GHOULISH GUIDE DOWN INTO A MUSEUM STOREROOM, WHERE FIVE MEN EXAMINE THEIR ARCHEOLOGICAL TREASURE, RECENTLY RIFLED FROM AN EGYPTIAN PYRAMID! FROM THE ANCIENT TOMB OF PHARAOH ANK-UMMEM, WHOSE LIFE-AFTER-DEATH PREPARATIONS HAD INCLUDED THE ...

WARDROBE of MONSTERS!



AS THREE MORE LIDS CREAK OPEN, THE MACABRE MYSTERY MULTIPLIES...

A BEASTMAN, OR
PERHAPS **WEREWOLF!**...



...A SATANIC **DEVILMAN!**!



...AND A MISHPHEN
UNHUMAN PATCHWORK
LIKE **FRANKENSTEIN!**
WHY WHAT DO YOU
MAKE OF IT,
REICHMANN?



PAH! ARTIFICIAL FORMS,
PARLETTI... EVEN IF THEY
FEEL LIKE COLD FLESH-
AND-BLOOD! ANDROIDS
...BIO-ROBOTS...
SYNTHETIC CREATURES...
WHATEVER YOU WILL!
INVENTED BY THE PHARAOH
AS HIS TRADITIONAL
"DEATH COMPANIONS,"
THAT'S ALL!



THESE HIFROGLYPHICS!
WHAT DO THEY SAY,
BAXTER?

IT IS SLOW WORK
DECIPHERING THE
INSCRIPTIONS... WORN AND
FADED... GIVE ME ANOTHER
WEEK, GENTLEMEN!



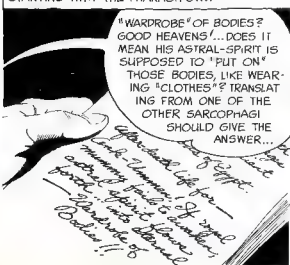
YOU'RE THE EXPERT,
BAXTER. WE'LL WITH-
HOLD ANNOUNCING THIS
MAJOR DYNASTIC
FIND UNTIL THEN!

FAME FOR ALL OF US...
AND **FORTUNE!** THE
ARCHEOLOGICAL BONANZA
OF THE CENTURY! I'LL
WORK NIGHTS AND HURRY
UP MY DECIPHERINGS,
GENTLEMEN!



NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, ARNOLD BAXTER LABORI-
OUSLY PIECES OUT THE HOARY MESSAGES,
STARTING WITH THE PHARAOH'S...

"WARDROBE" OF BODIES?
GOOD HEAVENS!... DOES IT
MEAN HIS ASTRAL-SPIRIT IS
SUPPOSED TO "PUT ON"
THOSE BODIES, LIKE WEAR-
ING "CLOTHES"? TRANSLAT-
ING FROM ONE OF THE
OTHER SARCOPHAGI
SHOULD GIVE THE
ANSWER...



AN EERIE ANSWER, INDEED!

TO INHABIT FIRST FORM, TOUCH MAGIC AMULET...
PRONOUNCE CHARM "XOTZIL"

BALDERDASH, OF COURSE! A PHARAOH'S MAD
DREAM OF ESCAPING FROM HIS DRIED DEAD MUMMY
AND LIVING NEW LIVES... BY DONNING HIS "WARDROBE"
OF WAITING BODIES! I'LL TRY THE MUMBO-JUMBO
MYSELF FOR LAUGHS...

XOTZIL!



START. ED, BAXTER FEELS STRANGE FORCES WRENCHING HIM, TURNING HIM INSIDE-OUT, TEARING HIM ASUNDER... AND THEN...



MY BODY... LYING THERE! YET I SEEM TO BE DETACHED.. WAFTING INTO THE SARCOPHAGUS... TOWARD THAT MONSTEROUS FORM! IT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T BE!



I-I'M **WEARING** THE VAMPIRE'S BODY! NO... NO! IS MY MIND... MY MENTALITY... **TRAPPED** WITHIN THIS LOATHSOME FORM? I WANT TO GET OUT... HELP!...



INSTANTLY, AT HIS WISH COMMAND...

THANK HEAVEN! IT -IT SEEMS I CAN ENTER OR LEAVE THE VAMPIRE FORM AT **WILL**! IT IS LIKE PUTTING ON AND TAKING OFF A SUIT OF CLOTHES! HMM... NO ONE **KNOWS** OF THIS, NOT EVEN MY COLLEAGUES....



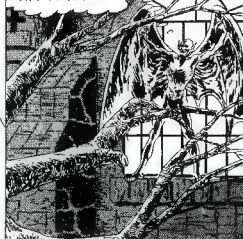
OTHER THOUGHTS ARSE AS ARNOLD BAXTER'S DETACHED PSYCHE AGAIN "DONS" THE EVIL FORM IN THE SARCOPHAGUS...



AND WHY **SPLIT UP** THE PHAROAH'S TREASURE **FIVE** WAYS WHEN I CAN...



... **REDUCE** THE NUMBER, ONE BY ONE! WHO CAN TRACE THE MURDER TRAIL OF A **VAMPIRE** ... BACK TO **ME**? HAAAAAAAAAAAA!



HENRY MURCHISON FIRST! HE'LL PASS FROM TEMPORARY SLEEP INTO...



... ETERNAL REPOSE!



SILENT, BATLIKE WINGS CARRY THE MONSTROUS KILLER BACK TO THE MUSEUM, AND...

NUMBER ONE OUT OF THE WAY!

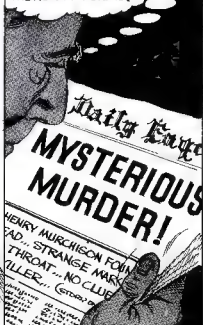


AND NOBODY THE WISER THAT I, ARNOLD BAXTER, DID IT! PERFECT... PERFECT!



NEXT DAY... IT WILL GO INTO THE UNSOLVED

CASES! ROUNDING UP HOMICIDE SUSPECTS, THE POLICE NEVER INCLUDE VAMPIRES! HEH! BUT JUST TO MAKE THE SERIES OF CRIMES MORE BAFFLING, I'LL USE ALL THE MONSTER-FORMS!

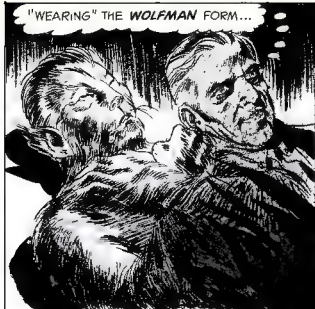


AND THAT NIGHT...

NOW TO USE THE SECOND SPECIMEN IN THE WARDROBE OF BODIES!

XOTZIL!!





"WEARING" THE WOLFMAN FORM...



I'LL GO AFTER PARLETTI!



IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...

GRAWRRRRRRRR!
HELLO, PARLETTI...

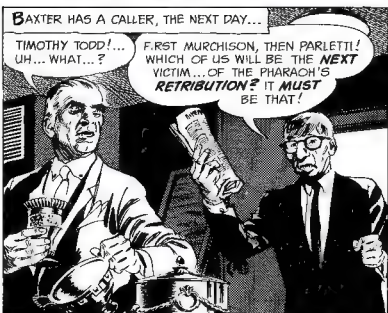


...AND GOODBYE!



LOPING UNSEEN BACK TO THE MUSEUM...

TWO DOWN ...
TWO TO GO! HAAAAA!



BAXTER HAS A CALLER, THE NEXT DAY...

TIMOTHY TODD! ...
UH... WHAT...?

FIRST MURCHISON, THEN PARLETTI!
WHICH OF US WILL BE THE **NEXT**
VICTIM... OF THE PHARAOH'S
RETRIBUTION? IT **MUST**
BE THAT!

BAXTER! IS THERE ANY MENTION OF A **CURSE** UPON THOSE WHO "DEFILE" ANK-UMMEM'S TOMB?

NOT A WORD, TODD! SUPERNATURAL ROT! WITH HIS WEAK HEART, MURCHISON PROBABLY HAD A STROKE... AND PERHAPS A WILD DOG ATTACKED PARLETTI!

I... I DON'T KNOW! IT'S STILL MORE THAN SHEER COINCIDENCE THAT TWO OF OUR COLLEAGUES SHOULD DIE SO SUDDENLY! **ANOTHER** DEATH... UH... IF NOT MY OWN... AND I GO TO THE POLICE!

YOU JUST APPOINTED YOURSELF **NUMBER THREE**, TODD... TONIGHT!

AS MIDNIGHT TOLLS... THEY SAY IT IS NOT MORAL AVERSION... BUT ONLY RISK OF BEING **CAUGHT**... THAT DETERS MEN FROM CRIME! THAT WITHOUT **FEAR OF PUNISHMENT**, ANY MAN WILL COMMIT MURDER TO **BENEFIT** HIMSELF--AND WHY NOT???

YES, **WHY NOT???** I, ARNOLD BAXTER, STAND TO GAIN GLORY AND GOLD... WITH NO FEAR OF RETRIBUTION FROM THE LAW!
HAAAAAAAAAAAA!



MUTTERING ALOUD FEARFULLY, TIMOTHY TODD HAS SHUNNED BEDTIME IN HIS SECLUDED SUBURBAN HOME...

I'LL BE ON GUARD ALL NIGHT! DOORS... WINDOWS... EVERYTHING BOLTED SHUT! NOTHING... OR NO **THING** CAN COME UPON ME BY SURPRISE...



YOU FORGOT THE CHIMNEY, TODD!

EAAAAAA! THAT THING IN THE FLAMES... THE PHARAOH'S **DEVILMAN**!



IF FLAMES FAILED TO STOP ME, DO YOU THINK BULLETS WOULD? YES, TODD, IT'S A 'CURSE' ALL RIGHT...
THE BAXTER CURSE! HAAAAAAA!



AFTER BAXTER REINHABITS HIS OWN BODY AT THE MUSEUM....

HMM...THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE IN MY PLANS...THE **PHARAOH'S ASTRAL-SPIRIT**, IF IT STILL LINGERS WITHIN HIS LONG-DEAD CORPSE! BUT I'LL FIX THAT!...



FUMING ACID, FOR CLEANING ANCIENT RELICS, POURS IN



THAT FINISHES PHARAOH'S ANK-LMMEM, MUMMY, ASTRAL-SPIRIT AND ALL! HIS **WARDROBE OF MONSTERS** IS MINE NOW... ALL MINE!

MEANWHILE, AT THE THIRD GRUESOME HEADLINE...

BAXTER? ERIC REICHMANN HERE. ONE DEATH... EVEN TWO DEATHS I COULD TAKE. BUT **THREE OF US... SHOCKING! AND... OMINOUS!**



ONLY YOU AND I LEFT NOW, BAXTER! I'M COMING TO TALK THIS FRIGHTENING BUSINESS OVER WITH YOU, THIS EVENING...

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, REICHMANN...

IN **AMBUSH!** HAAAAA!



OUT OF THE NIGHT SHADOWS, AS REICHMAN ARRIVES. .

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, REICHMAN? "TAKE MY SHARE OF THE PHARAOH'S LOOT!"
HOW *KIND* OF YOU!



LATER, IN THE STOREROOM...

B-BUT WHERE *IS* MY BODY... IT'S *GONE*!



HARKEN, ARNOLD BAXTER! WHEN YOU DESTROYED MY MUMMY, YOU AWOKED MY SLUMBERING ASTRAL SPIRIT!

THE DEAD PHARAOH'S VOICE... NO WAIT... OH, LORD, NOW I KNOW...



IT'S MY *OWN* VOICE FROM MY *BODY*!

YOUR BODY, BAXTER? IT NOW BELONGS TO *ME* --- PHARAOH ANK-UMMEM! AND IN RETURN...



...YOU MAY HAVE MY *WARDROBE OF MONSTER FORMS*... *FOREVER*!



WELL, KIDDIES, IF YOU EVER SEE A LUMBERING SHAPE PASS BY YOUR WINDOW, CHANCES ARE IT'S ARNOLD BAXTER LOOKING FOR HIS OWN BODY— HA, HA, HA!



END

PROLOGUE: LIKE MOST NEIGHBORHOOD BARS, THE "EARTHSTONE" DEPENDS ON REGULAR CUSTOMERS; UNTROUBLEDSOME, FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHO CAN BE DEPENDED UPON TO DROP BY. SUCH AS THE MAN ENTERING NOW, ACCOUNTANT HARRY WILLET ...

EVENIN' MR WILLET! THE USUAL?

MAYBE JUST SOME SODA WATER... HAVEN'T FELT TOO WELL LATELY. KEEP GETTING HEADACHES...

WEARILY, WILLET TAKES HIS ACCUSTOMED PLACE BESIDE ANOTHER OF THE REGULARS, USED CAR SALESMAN FRED THORENSEN...

ANY KIND OF TROUBLE AT THE OFFICE, HARRY? COULD BE THAT YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD...YOU WERE ALWAYS ONE FOR THAT!

NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT. MY JOB IS FINE!

BRENDA FRAZIER, MANICURIST AT THE NEARBY BARBER SHOP, SETS DOWN HER BEER AND LEANS FORWARD WITH INTEREST...

YOU KNOW, MR WILLET, MY SON IN-LAW'S A CHIROPRACTOR... ONE GOOD ADJUSTMENT FROM HIM WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL FINE!

THANKS, ANYWAY, MRS

FRAZIER. I JUST HAD A CHECK UP WITH MY REGULAR DOCTOR. HE DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING...



FROM WHERE HE RELAXES IN THE BOOTH, THE CONVERSATION CAPTURES THE INTEREST OF POST-MAN GEORGE DILLON...

LISTEN, HARRY...THE THING WITH YOU IS YOU'RE TOO QUIET, TOO RESERVED! YOU OUGHTA GET OUT ON THE TOWN ONCE IN A WHILE. FIND A LITTLE EXCITEMENT!

BARTENDER BURT GABRIEL PICKS UP A GLASS AND BEGINS TO POLISH IT. HE KNOWS THE REGULARS WILL SOON BE WANTING THEIR SECOND ROUND...

EXCITEMENT? IN *THIS* TOWN? YOU MUST BE KIDDING! WHATEVER HAPPENS AROUND HERE?



FROM THE RATHER MUNDANE MEANDERINGS OF OUR PROLOGUE, IMPATIENT READERS, WE'LL GET DOWN TO THE NERVE NUMBING NUTTY-GUTTY AS THE BAR'S COMPLACENT CUSTOMERS DISCOVER THE DIRE DOINGS WHEN...

THE DEMON WAKES



DEEP IN THE PIT'S STYGIAN DEPTHS, **MOLOCH** SLUMBERS, AND EVEN IN SLUMBER HIS BESTIALITY IS HORRENDOUS, HIS MASSIVE FORM AN OMINOUS THREAT... THEN, THERE IS A STIRRING IN THE DARK OPPRESSIVE AIR, THE FAINTEST WHISPER OF MOTION IN THE WORLD OF THE PIT... AND **MOLOCH'S** BODY SHUDDERS AND **MOVES!**

AGAIN, THE HULKING FORM MOVES SLIGHTLY, AND, AS A GREAT UNNOWNABLE BEAST WOULD SHAKE OFF SLEEP, THE DARK RIMMED SUNKEN EYELIDS, MOVE, STRAIN AND SLOWLY, ALMOST PAINFULLY, PART....



AN OBSCENE RUMBLE CROWS IN THE THROAT OF MOLOCH AS HE TRIES TO RISE AND FEELS THE GHARP BIT OF RESTRAINING STEEL ON HIS COARSE MUSCLED LIMBS... **R**AGES SWELLS AND GROWS WITHIN HIS MONSTER BODY LIKE RAMPANT CANCER... HE HAS SLUMBERED TOO LONG, BEEN IDLE TOO LONG, TO NOW, WITH THE FULLNESS OF HIS WAKING MIGHT SURGING THROUGH HIM, BE BOUND FURTHER BY IRON AND CHAIN... MOLOCH'S ANGRY CRY SHUDDERS UP AND DOWN THE DARK HEIGHT OF THE PIT, AS EVERY MUSCLE, EVERY FIBER OF HIS GROTESQUE BEING STRAINS AT HIS WEAKENING SHACKLES, UNTIL...

WITH A ROAR OF TRIUMPH, THE MASSIVE CREATURE BOUNDS FREE, AND, USELESS, BROKEN CHAIN DANGLING FROM EACH MIGHTY LIMB, ASSAULTS THE SLIME ENCRUSTED WALL OF THE PIT AS THOUGH IT WERE A LIVING ENTITY TO BE BEATEN INTO SUBMISSION...



HIGH ABOVE, AT THE MOUTH OF THE YAWNING ABYSS, TWO GUARDS STIFFEN WITH HORROR AT THE TERRIBLE SOUNDS BELCHING FORTH, LOUDER AND CLOSER, FROM THE DARKENED DEPTHS BELOW...

I-IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! HE'S AWAKENED, AND BROKEN **FREE**... DESPITE EVERY-THING WE'VE DONE...

THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE! GET THE OTHERS... **HURRY!**

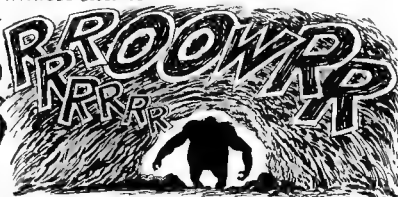
THEN, THE AIR IS SHATTERED BY A MONSTER ROAR, AS MOLOCH'S TOWERING HULK PIERCES THE LIGHT AND AIR OF THE UPPER REACHES!

I'LL TRY TO DELAY HIM! GET THE OTHERS... **BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!**

EVEN IN HIS SLUMBER, MOLOCH HAS DREAMED OF THIS UPPER WORLD, OF ESCAPING THE PIT'S CONFINING BLACKNESS, OF THRILLING TO CONQUEST AND DESTRUCTION... NOW THAT IT IS IN HIS SIGHT, HE KNOWS HE WON'T BE STOPPED... NOT BY ONE MAN... OR HUNDREDS



A RED VEIL OF HATE CLOSES OVER MOLOCH AS THE THRILL OF HIS FIRST KILL MAKES HIM ACHIEVE FOR MORE. THROUGH MYRIAD PASSAGES HE PLUNGES AFTER THE OTHER GUARD, HOWLING A FURIOUS BLOODLUST...



AT LAST THE GIGANTIC BRUTE ERUPTS OUT OF THE TUNNEL TO STAND HEAVING AND GRUNTING WITH BESTIAL FURY BEFORE HIS STARTLED ENEMY... CONFRONTING THE GUARDIANS IN THEIR OWN MEETING PLACE, HIS WILD GLOWING EYES, BURNING WITHIN THE DARK RECESS OF HIS MONSTER BROW, PROMISE THAT NOW IS THE TIME OF NO QUARTER... AND **NO MERCY!**

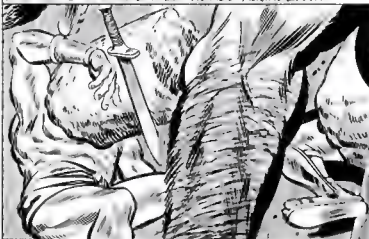
THERE'S NO TIME FOR PLANS! EVERYTHING'S LOST IF WE DON'T STOP HIM HERE AND **NOW!**



MOLOCH'S SCREAMING ROAR ECHOES OVER THE SCENE LIKE A BATTLE TRUMPET, AS WITH A CRUSHING RENDING OF MARBLE COLUMN AND LIVING FLESH, THE NATURAL FOES CLASH IN A MAELSTROM OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCE...



WITH DESPERATE COURAGE, THE GUARDIANS RUSH THE RAMPAGEING MONSTER, ONLY TO BE DEVoured IN THE CONSUMING RUTHLESSNESS OF HIS ATTACK. AS MOLOCH, DRIVEN BY THE WILL TO NEVER AGAIN KNOW THE DEEPNESS OF THE PIT, TEARS THEM AND THEIR WORLD ASUNDER...



AGAIN AND AGAIN THE RAGING CREATURE KILLS AND MAIMS, SMASHES AND DESTROYS, SENSELESSLY AND CEASELESSLY ASSAULTING ALL AROUND HIM, UNTIL THE LAST STONE DROPS, THE LAST FOE FALLS, UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING...



...NOTHING BUT MOLOCH, UNBEATEN, UNRESTRAINED. HE SCREAMS HIS ANIMAL TRIUMPH, UNANSWERED AND UNCHALLENGED, UNTIL THE VERY AIR IS ALIVE WITH ITS TERRIBLE MEANING.

MOLOCH IS FREE!!

EPILOGUE: AT THE "HEARTHSTONE," A SUDDEN MOVEMENT FROM HARRY WILLET STARTLES THE OTHER REGULARS...

YOU ALL RIGHT, HARRY? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD IN THE LAST HALF HOUR... **HARRY!** ARE YOU **CRAZY?**! BURT HAS THAT FOR EMERGENCIES, YOU CAN'T...



FOR A TERRIBLE INSTANT, THE BAR IS STARK QUIET AS THE MILD MANNERED ACCOUNTANT CLICKS OFF THE SAFETY... THEN ALL THE SCREAMS ARE LOST IN THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE...



WITH MANIACAL PRECISION, THE DEATH SPITTING PISTOL RANGES OVER THOSE GATHERED IN THE BAR, CATCHING FRED THORENSEN TWICE IN THE CHEST, SLAMING INTO BRENDA FRAZIER WHO IS TURNING TO RUN, BURNING INTO GEORGE DILLON'S STOMACH AS HE COLLAPSES IN SURPRISE, AND KNOCKING BURT GABRIEL BACKWARD AS HIS SHOULDER IS HIT...



UNTIL THE RICOCHETING SOUNDS BRING THE BEAT COP RUNNING TO THE DOOR...

...AND HARRY WILLET JOINS THE OTHER REGULARS.



I DON'T GET IT, I JUST DON'T GET IT! YOU NEVER SAW A QUIETER, NICER FELLA... WOULDN'T BOTHER ANYONE! ALL OF A SUDDEN HE JUST UP AND KILLS **THREE** PEOPLE!

WHAT GETS INTO A GUY LIKE THAT?!



A TIGER IN YOUR TANK MAY BE OKAY, KIDDIES, BUT WHEN YOU'VE GOT A **MOLOCH** IN YOUR MIND... WATCH OUT!!





FRANKENSTEIN



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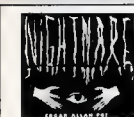


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NOW FOR ANOTHER **NERVE-NUMBER**... A STARTLING STUNNER OF A STORY, GUARANTEED TO HELP THE **HORROR HABIT!** THIS ONE WILL CHILL THE SPINE, CURL THE HAIR, AND REALLY GET...

UNDER THE

SKIN!!

NO! NO! IT
CAN'T BE!

NOOOOOOOOO

EEEEEEEEEEEE

GREAT!

TERRIFIC!

SOLOSSAL!

Joe Orlando

The scene of horror ended suddenly in the white brilliance of a motion picture screen... The sound of film clicking on a take-up reel was soon drowned out by enthusiastic murmuring...

ERIC, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN! THESE RUSHES LOOK MARVELOUS! ESPECIALLY YOUR MAKE-UP... FANTASTIC!

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME! I'VE TWICE THE ACTING EXPERIENCE OF STARVOS!



"THE MAN OF A MILLION MONSTERS"! HOW DO YOU DO IT, ERIC? WHERE DO YOU COME UP WITH SUCH GREAT MAKE-UP FOR ALL YOUR ROLES?

I'VE BEEN KNOCKED OUT OF THE HORROR BUSINESS SINCE STARVOS APPEARED! HIS MAKE-UP GETS HIM ALL THE TOP ROLES!

SORRY YOU LOST OUT ON THE LEAD, LEO... AT LEAST WE MANAGED TO GET YOU A SUPPORTING ROLE...

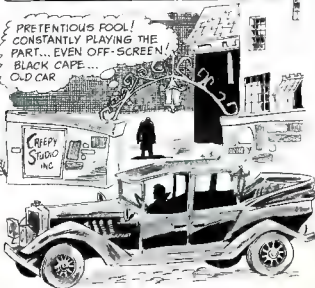
SUPPORTING ROLE? I'M A STAR! IF ONLY I COULD LEARN HIS SECRET!



STARVOS! YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME! ONE PROFESSIONAL TO ANOTHER... HOW DO YOU GET THOSE EFFECTS?

TELL? AND HAVE MY CAREER NOSEDIVE LIKE YOURS, ERNST? MY MAKE UP SECRETS WILL REMAIN MY OWN!

PRETENTIOUS FOOL! CONSTANTLY PLAYING THE PART... EVEN OFF-SCREEN! BLACK CAPE... OLD CAR



*Eric Starvos's
make-up secrets ob-
sessed Leo Ernst...He
could not get it out
of his mind...He
HAD to know...*

EVEN LIVES IN THIS
OLD GOTHIC WRECK
... ALONE! NO FAMILY
OR SERVANTS... NO
LIGHTS EXCEPT IN
THE ATTIC WINDOW
... HE MUST BE
THERE!

WITH STRENGTH, AGILITY BORN OUT OF HIS OBSESSION,
ERNST SCALED HIS WAY TO A VIEW INTO THE LIGHTED
WINDOW...

I WAS RIGHT!
HE'S INSIDE...

CREATING

BLAST HIM! HE'S DONE
IT AGAIN! THIS IS EVEN
MORE TERRIFYING THAN
IN THIS AFTERNOON'S
RUSHES... HOW?!

HE'S WELL SET UP
TO EXPERIMENT AND
-- WHAT'S THIS?
HE KEEPS A
NOTEBOOK!

IT MUST ALL BE IN THERE!
SKETCHES... FORMULAS
... IDEAS... IF I COULD
GET MY HANDS ON
THAT...

WITH DEADLY CALMNESS, ERNST MADE HIS WAY TO THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE AND KNOCKED ...LOW AND DEMANDING...

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS, ERNST? I DON'T LIKE MY PRIVACY MEDDLED WITH!

STARVOS, PLEASE! YOU'VE GOT TO TALK WITH ME ... PLEASE!

EVEN AS THE GAUNT MAN RELUCTANTLY LED HIM INSIDE, ERNST KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO...

VERY WELL... BUT MAKE IT QUICK! AND WHAT I'VE SAID ABOUT MY MAKE-UP SECRETS STILL GOES!

WHY, MY DEAR STARVOS... I WOULDN'T DREAM OF ASKING FOR THEM...

NOT WHEN I CAN TAKE THEM!

THE BODY OF THE HORROR STAR HAD HARDLY HIT THE FLOOR BEFORE ERNST HAD RUSHED TO THE ATT.C ROOM AND FLIPPED THROUGH THE NOTEBOOK.

WHOOCK!

IT'S ALL HERE! EVERYTHING! THERE'LL BE SOME SURPRISES AT THE STUDIO TOMORROW

SHOOTING TIME CAME AND WENT ON THE SET THE NEXT MORNING... THE STAR HAD MADE NO APPEARANCE... EVERYONE FUMED AND WAITED, UNTIL...

HORRIBLE! LAST NIGHT... ERIC STARVOS AND HIS WHOLE HOUSE WENT UP IN FLAMES! HORRIBLE ACCIDENT!



IN AN INDUSTRY WHERE TIME IS MONEY, THE MOURNING PERIOD FOR ERIC STARVOS WAS SHORT, BUT CONCERN ABOUT DOING WITHOUT HIS TALENT WAS LONG...

WE'LL HAVE TO SCRAP THE WHOLE PICTURE! NO ONE CAN MATCH HIS MAKE-UP!

DON'T BE SO SURE ABOUT THAT!



SOME TIME LATER, LEO ERNST REAPPEARED... HE HAD FOLLOWED STARVOS'S NOTEBOOK TO THE LETTER

WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

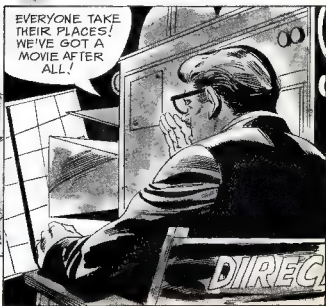


LEO, ARE YOU NUTS? NOBODY BUT STARVOS COULD COME UP WITH THE KIND OF STUFF HE DID...

HE LET ME IN ON SOME OF HIS SECRETS ...YOU'LL SEE!



EVERYONE TAKE THEIR PLACES! WE'VE GOT A MOVIE AFTER ALL!



THE DAY WENT QUICKLY AND EASILY FOR ERNST... STARVOS'S MAKE-UP FELT COMFORTABLE... HE'D UP WELL...

PRINT IT! BEAUTIFUL, LEO BABY! YOU'LL BE A STAR ALL OVER AGAIN AFTER THIS ONE!



AMID VOICES OF CONGRATULATIONS, LEO WENT TO THE DRESSING ROOM EAGER TO RID HIMSELF OF THE MAKE-UP AND REAPPEAR TO HIS NEW ADMIRERS AS LEO ERNST, STAR!

I DID IT! EVERYONE LOVED MY PERFORMANCE! THANKS TO ERIC'S MAKE-UP.



HEY? WHAT IS THIS? THE STUFF ISN'T COMING OFF!



NOTHING HAD ANY EFFECT... ERIC STARVOS'S CREATION STAYED COMPLETELY IN PLACE. ERNST FELT A GROWING PANIC...

IT'S GOT TO COME OFF! WHAT'S WRONG! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH IT?



GOT TO GET IT OFF! RII! TEAR! ANYTHING! WHY WON'T IT COME OFF!

NOTHING HAPPENED... NOTHING WORKED! IT WAS DRIVING HIM CRAZY... HIS MOVEMENTS BECAME WILD AND FRENZIED!



HIS VOICE ROSE TO A WHINING SCREAM... BECAME A SOBBING PLEA... OUTSIDE PEOPLE BEGAN TO NOTICE...

IT WON'T COME OFF!
I CAN'T GET IT OFF!!

LEO! WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE? LEO?!



STARVOS DID THIS! HE WANTED IT TO HAPPEN!
GOT TO GET IT OFF!

LEO? WHAT'S GOING ON IN HE---



OH...

LORD!

DO SOMETHING!
GET A DOCTOR
...GET A STRAIT JACKET...
ANYTHING!
QUICK! HE'S...

GOT TO GET IT OFF!
GOT TO...



THE TWO MEN STARED IN REVULSION AT THE RAW-FACED THING BEFORE THEM... ITS BLOODSTAINED HANDS STILL PITIFULLY TRYING TO CLAW AT THE MAKE-UP LONG SINCE GONE!

...RIPPED ALL THE SKIN FROM HIS FACE!

IT WON'T COME OFF!
IT WON'T COME OFF!!



HMMMH? DID STARVOS'S MAKE UP REALLY STAY ON OR LEO IMAGINE THAT IT DID? EITHER WAY, POOR LEO CERTAINLY LOST FACE ON THE DEAL, BUT, LET'S FACE IT, HE HAD IT COMING TO HIM! NOW SEE IF YOU CAN FACE WHAT'S COMING NEXT TO YOU!



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WHO
LOVED
C
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I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO LET THIS STORY GET OUT!
NOTHING GHOULISH OR MONSTROUS HERE! IN FACT
EVERYBODY IS QUITE BEAUTIFUL! COME ALONG ANY-
WAY! A LITTLE BEAUTY NEVER HURT ANYONE!

The DOLL COLLECTOR!

MIRIAM HOLLIS, YOU'VE DONE IT
AGAIN! WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH THIS
TIME... DARN THE TELEPHONE!

WONDER WHICH SUCKER IT IS *THIS* TIME?

COMING! COMING!



REX! I
WAS JUST
THINKING ABOUT
YOU! WHEN DID
YOU GET IN TOWN?

YOU LOVABLE IDIOT!
WONDER HOW MUCH I CAN
GET FROM YOU THIS TIME?

HELLO LOVELIES! BY TONIGHT THERE'LL BE A NEW MEMBER ON YOJR FAB SET! UNCLE REX IS BACK IN TOWN AND I'M GOING TO KEEP HIM COMPANY UNTIL HIS MONEY RUNS OUT! NOW... TELL ME! WHAT SHOULD I WEAR...



WONDER HOW MALLE. NEIGE FELT ABOUT COPYING AN OR GINAL FOR A DOLL? MY MINI EVENING DRESS!



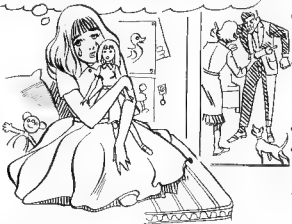
REX WILL LOVE IT! MEN! THEY'RE SUCH WONDERFUL FOOLS! I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D BE WITHOUT THEM... OR DO I?



HELLO, MIRIAM! REMEMBER *ME*? IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, I'D PROBABLY BE SLAVING AWAY IN SOME OFFICE UNTIL I GOT MARRIED! BUT YOU HELPED ME DECIDE WHAT TO DO...



SEEMS SO LONG AGO WHEN WE USED TO CRY TOGETHER WHENEVER MOM AND DAD QUARRELED! REMEMBER OUR VOW NEVER TO LET ANY MAN TREAT *US* LIKE THAT!



LATER I USED TO COME HOME AND TELL YOU ALL THE EXCITING THINGS I DID TO MAKE BOYS NOTICE ME! HOW THE OTHER GIRLS *HATED* ME!



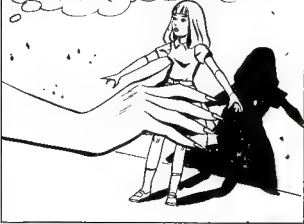
AND THERE WERE SO MANY WONDERFUL MEN WHO HELPED US GET UP IN THE WORLD! SOME WERE A BIT WEAK LIKE MR. MILLER! HIS WIFE NEVER KNEW WHY HE COMMITTED SUICIDE!



FROM THE SMALL MEN WITH THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS TO THE BIG MEN...IT WASN'T HARD TO DO! AND AS WE WENT, I ADDED MORE DOLLS TO MY COLLECTION!



BUT I CAN'T SPEND THE EVENING THINKING ABOUT THE PAST, MIRIAM! THERE'S TONIGHT AND REX! WONDER WHAT HE'LL BRING ME TONIGHT...
HMMM!



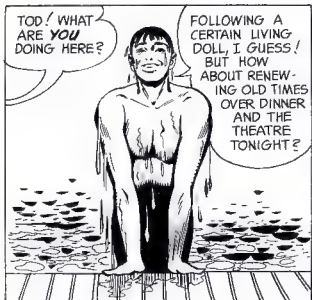
AND SO LIFE GOES FOR MIRIAM AND HER COLLECTION... JUST ONE MAN AFTER ANOTHER! WITH HER REWARD FROM THE LAST SUCKER, SHE HEADS FOR THE ITALIAN RIVIERA!

THE SUN FEELS GOOD!
IT'S TOO BAD I COULDN'T
BRING THE DOLLS WITH ME!
THEY'D LOVE THIS PLACE!



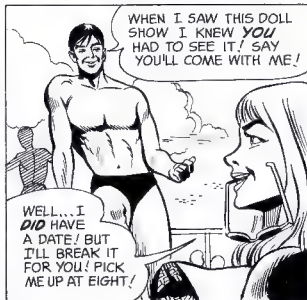
TOD! WHAT
ARE **YOU**
DOING HERE?

FOLLOWING A
CERTAIN LIVING
DOLL, I GUESS!
BUT HOW
ABOUT RENEW-
ING OLD TIMES
OVER DINNER
AND THE
THEATRE
TONIGHT?



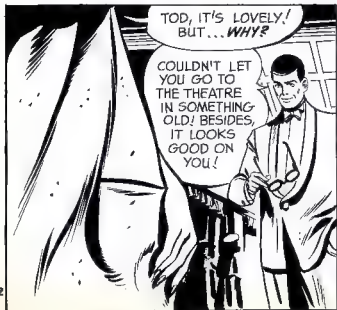
WHEN I SAW THIS DOLL
SHOW I KNEW **YOU**
HAD TO SEE IT! SAY
YOU'LL COME WITH ME!

WELL... I
DID HAVE
A DATE! BUT
I'LL BREAK IT
FOR YOU! PICK
ME UP AT EIGHT!



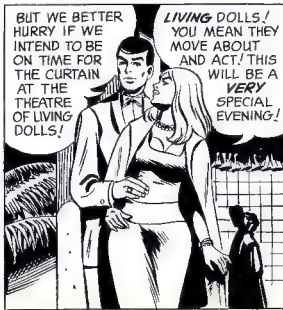
TOD, IT'S LOVELY!
BUT... **WHY?**

COULDN'T LET
YOU GO TO
THE THEATRE
IN SOMETHING
OLD! BESIDES,
IT LOOKS
GOOD ON
YOU!



BUT WE BETTER
HURRY IF WE
INTEND TO BE
ON TIME FOR
THE CURTAIN
AT THE
THEATRE
OF LIVING
DOLLS!

LIVING DOLLS!
YOU MEAN THEY
MOVE ABOUT
AND ACT! THIS
WILL BE A
VERY
SPECIAL
EVENING!



WE JUST **MADE** IT! THE CURTAIN SHOULD BE GOING UP ANY SECOND NOW!



THE HOUSELIGHTS DIM...THE CURTAIN PARTS...AND THE DOLLS APPEAR...

THEY'RE MARVELOUS! TODAY...I **MUST** HAVE ONE FOR MY COLLECTION!

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO AFTER THE SHOW, MIRIAM!



SHHHH !!!

BUT NOTHING WORKS! THE OWNER, MR. FANTOCCI, REFUSES TO PART WITH ANY OF HIS DOLLS!

BUT SURELY ONE DOLL... YOU MUST HAVE SOME THAT DON'T APPEAR **ALL** THE TIME!

MY COLLECTION JUST WON'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT ONE OF THESE!

NON, NON! NO DOLLARS FOR MY BAMBOLI! YOU AMERICANS THINK YOU CAN BUY **EVERYTHING**!



BUT MR. FANTOCCI! YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT A SENSATION ONE OF YOUR DOLLS WOULD MAKE IN THE STATES!

NON!! MIO BAMBOLI WILL STAY **HERE** WITH ME! I DO NOT PART WITH ANY OF MY... HOW YOU SAY... COLLEZIONE?

YOU'RE A TOUGH CUSTOMER, FANTOCCI... BUT WHATEVER MIRIAM WANTS, MIRIAM **GETS**!





THEN ALL IS QUIET AND ONLY SHADOWS FILL THE THEATRE...



NOW WHICH ONE DO I WANT!



THERE! THAT ONE WILL LOOK LOVELY WITH THE OTHERS! WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO GET IT TO MOVE...



WHAT? I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



CAN'T LET THEM STOP ME NOW! I'LL GET MY DOLL... NO ONE WILL STOP ME!



THERE! BUT IT'S ONLY A DOLL! IMPOSSIBLE!



BLOOD! I'VE KILLED A DOLL! BUT HOW...? NO! IT ISN'T TRUE!



I'VE GOT TO GET OUT... THE DOLLS!



BUT THE TINY SHADOWS CREEP FORWARD UNTIL ALL BECOMES BLACKNESS FOR MIRIAM!

A WEEK LATER, TOD RETURNS TO FANTOCCI'S THEATRE WITH A DIFFERENT DATE!

I STILL CAN'T GET OVER MIRIAM LEAVING LIKE THAT, LUCILLE!

SHE'S PROBABLY OUT ON SOME YACHT HAVING A GOOD TIME!

AND TOD ENJOYS HIMSELF FULLY UNTIL SOMEWHERE IN THE SECOND ACT...

GOOD GOD! IT'S MIRIAM! THAT DOLL LOOKS JUST LIKE HER!

TOD! SIT DOWN! QUIET! YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF!

PLEASE SIT DOWN!

SHHH!

TOD IS CALMED DOWN AND REMAINS FOR THE FULL SHOW! AND THE DOLLS PUT ON A BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE!

IT WAS TOD! BUT I COULDN'T CALL OUT TO HIM!

COME! DON'T DALLY!

MAKE SURE SHE GETS BACK INTO THE ROOM SAFELY!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!

FANTOCCI WOULD HURT US IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HER!

AND OUT FRONT...

MR. TOD SPELLING! I SEE YOU RECOGNIZED YOUR FRIEND! SHE SO APPEALED TO ME THAT I HAD TO MAKE A DOLL LIKE HER FOR THE THEATRE!

IT'S AN INCREDIBLE LIKENESS!

SEE! I TOLD YOU IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

BUT MUCH LATER THAT EVENING...

FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOU, I KNEW YOU HAD TO BE PART OF MY COLLECTION!

NO, NO! I DON'T WANT TO BE A DOLL!

JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN COLLECTORS GET TOGETHER! WELL WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT WHEN A REALLY HEARTLESS WOMAN, A DOLL SO TO SPEAK, MEETS A MAN WHO WANTS HER FOR HER BEAUTY ONLY!



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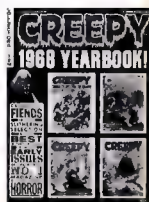
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A CHANGE IN THE MOON!

AUGUST 23, 1874. THE HARTFORDS ARE RETURNING TO ENGLAND AFTER TOURING THE CONTINENT.



WHAT A WONDERFUL TRIP IT'S BEEN, TONY! EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE AWFUL NIGHT--

YES, DIANE, I KNOW HOW IT UPSET YOU...

YOU MUST TRY TO FORGET THAT NIGHT MARE. LOOK, DARLING, WE'RE ALMOST HOME! YOU CAN SEE THE CLIFFS OF DOVER!



DARLING...

YAAH!!



LONDON, THE NEXT AFTERNOON...

WELCOME HOME!
DIANE -- WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE IT, SISSY.
WHAT A TRIP!
I FELL OVER-
BOARD ONCE--
AND ONE
NIGHT A
WOLF--

A WOLF?
WHAT ON EARTH ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

IT'S
TRUE! IT
WAS IN THE
CARPATHIAN
MOUNTAINS ABOUT
A MONTH AGO.
TONY WAS OFF
SOMEWHERE, AND
I DECIDED TO TAKE
A WALK --

"THE MOUNTAINS AND THE
WOODS WERE SO BEAUTIFUL
IN THE MOONLIGHT "

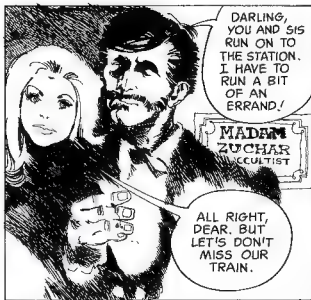
"SUDDENLY, IT LEAPED--
OUT OF NOWHERE-- I
MUST HAVE FAINTED--"

"TONY HEARD MY SCREAM,
AND DROVE THE BEAST OFF--"

GURROW!

EEYAA!





NO, I INSIST.
TRAIN WILL BE
HERE SOON.
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
SEE US OFF!

GOOD-BY,
SISSY! THANKS
FOR MEETING
THE BOAT.
COME SEE
US VERY
SOON IN
THE COUNTRY

HERE
COMES THE
TRAIN!

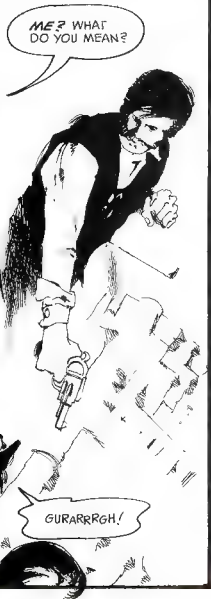
NO, THAT'S A
FREIGHT. IT DOESN'T
STOP. BETTER STEP
BACK, DIANE--

--DARLING--
GOD HELP
ME!

TONY!

WHEEEEEEEEE!







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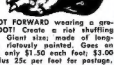
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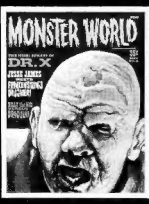
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